



Year 12 Legal Studies Research Assessment Task

Family

Weighting: 20%

Outcomes:	
H1.1	applies domestic and international legal vocabulary in appropriate contexts
H2.2	compares similarities and contrasts differences in relation to customary law, statutory law, common law and international law
H3.1	analyses the interrelationship between law, justice and society and the changing nature of law
H3.2	assesses how cultures and values of different groups within society impact on the legal system
H3.3	evaluates the effectiveness of the processes and mechanisms of change in the legal system
H3.4	analyses legislation, cases, media reports and opinions to review arguments for change and reform in the law
H4.2	assesses the effectiveness of dispute resolution mechanisms
H5.1	selects and organises relevant legal information from a variety of sources and evaluates information and sources for usefulness, validity and bias
H5.2	investigates, analyses and synthesises legal information from a variety of perspectives and presents the findings of investigations
H5.4	uses planning and review strategies to manage effectively the competing demands of complex tasks and makes effective use of time and resources.

Outline how Family Law legislation has developed in recent history, and evaluate the effectiveness of these changes.

make a judgement

The **focus** of your investigation is not ALL laws related to families. You are to focus your research on three main areas:

1. How the **dissolution of marriage** (including divorce AND property allocation/division) has been historically and currently handled; *How things have change since then*
2. How **parental responsibility** and **parental orders** after divorce have been affected by changes to the law; and *spending equal time with both parents*
3. How **different groups** have responded to (or even caused) these changes (which will require research of media articles). *male lobby groups (one fathers)*

To do this, you are going to write an **extended response (2000-2500 words)** that follows the following structure:

- a) An **introduction** that briefly describes your main arguments (i.e. a quick evaluation of the changes, perhaps mentioning some of positive and negative outcomes of these changes to the law). **Approx. 200-250 words.**
- b) A paragraph on Family Law Prior to 1975 (this will require some amount of research). **Approx. 300-350 words.** *Matrimonial Causes Act 1959 (MCA)*
- c) Two paragraphs on the Family Law Act 1975 and Family Court. **Approx. 400-500 words.**
- d) A paragraph on any developments between 1975 and 2006. **Approx. 300-400 words.**
- e) At least two paragraphs on the latest changes to Family Law (2006-2008 – Family Relationship Centres, Shared Parental Responsibility, etc). **Approx. 500-600 words.** *Conventions the rights a child word*
- f) A conclusion that **makes a final judgement** on the overall effectiveness of these changes AND some suggestions as to where Family Law may be headed from this point onwards. **Approx. 300-400 words.** *equality, accessibility, enforceability, resource efficiency, protection of individual rights, recognition of indi right*

You are **encouraged** to use **subheadings** to help the structure of your response.

Due Date

Wednesday, 25th June – In class (beginning of the lesson)